

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2116**

**Introduced by Assembly Members Cohn and Negrete McLeod**

February 17, 2006

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An act to amend Section 8592.4 of the Government Code, relating to public safety.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2116, as introduced, Cohn. Emergency services: disaster assistance: equipment.

Existing law requires the Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee to make recommendations for state agency purchase of communications equipment that will enable interoperability and other shared uses of public safety spectrum with local and federal agencies.

This bill would specify that the recommended equipment be public safety radio subscriber equipment that also conforms to governmental standards for interoperability and, as technology evolves, that the equipment be nonproprietary and have open architecture and backward capability.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) The ability of several public safety agencies to
- 4 communicate with one another from neighboring cities, adjacent
- 5 counties, and across the state has become more essential since the
- 6 terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The events of September

11 clearly demonstrated the need for law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical services personnel to be able to effectively communicate in times of need so resources can be properly utilized and lives can be saved.

(b) Currently in this state, the ability of public safety agencies to communicate with each other is largely impossible because of all the different communications systems being utilized by the various public safety agencies. This problem has been examined by the California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee, the Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee, and the Legislature.

(c) As we move to develop regional communications systems the governance of the systems will be the key to their success. There are some basic elements that must be included for any regional system to work effectively. These elements include the following:

(1) Regional systems should be established taking into consideration topography, contiguous urban areas, and operational efficiency with respect to response agreements with local public safety agencies and, at minimum, should serve a county.

(2) Regional systems must be compliant with current and applicable standards.

(3) Regional systems should be developed based on a shared governance model, the use of joint powers agreements is one workable model. The governance board responsibilities would include, but not be limited to, establishing advisory committees to develop recommendations on system operational issues, technical upgrades, and system financial planning.

(4) Regional systems should be developed using costing models that include subscriber fees that cover system operational costs, personnel needed to manage the network, technical upgrades or enhancements, and system replacement costs.

(5) Regional systems should be sized to include sufficient frequency capacity to serve all public interests including state, county, local government, and special districts.

(6) Regional systems must be developed in conjunction with ongoing regional and statewide planning efforts to ensure adequate frequency coordination.

1 SEC. 2. Section 8592.4 of the Government Code is amended  
2 to read:

3 8592.4. (a) The committee shall determine which state public  
4 safety departments listed in subdivision (b) of Section 8592.1  
5 need new or upgraded communication equipment and shall  
6 establish a program for equipment purchase. In establishing this  
7 program, the committee shall recommend the purchase of *public*  
8 *safety radio subscriber* equipment that will enable state agencies  
9 to commence conforming to ~~accepted~~ *industry and governmental*  
10 *standards for interoperability specified in subdivision (a) of as set*  
11 *forth in Section 8592.5. As technology continues to evolve, the*  
12 *committee shall recommend the purchase of nonproprietary*  
13 *communications systems and devices that have open*  
14 *architecture, backward compatibility, and compliance with*  
15 *subdivision (a) of Section 8592.5.*

16 (b) This section ~~may not be construed to~~ *does not* mandate that  
17 a state or local governmental agency affected ~~thereby~~ *by this*  
18 *section* is required to compromise its immediate mission or  
19 ability to function and carry out its existing responsibilities.